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MESSAGE TO MR. RENATO CONSTANTINO, JR. CHAIRMAN OF THE ASIA-PACIFIC CONFERENCE ON EAST TIMOR, IN THE PHILIPPINES

From the Timorese Political Prisoners in Dili

We, the political prisoners and survivors of the tragedy of 12 November '91, in the name of the people of East Timor, send our congratulations for your praiseworthy initiative in staging the Manila Conference in order to make known to the world and in particular to the ASEAN countries the resistance struggle of the Maubere people against the illegal occupation of our country.

In this time of great transformation the political relationships of the world while a new political world order is emerging, orientated to the defense of legitimate aspirations and fundamental values of peace, respect for the dignity of human beliefs and peoples, it is appropriate that individuals, groups, organizations and governments who love peace, liberty and justice should promote initiatives of this kind so that the truth should be like a road to bring men and peoples to find their liberties.

Certainly today the struggle of the Maubere people is developing new dimensions. Before, the total blockade of information to the outside world, by the occupying Indonesian government made possible the extermination of more than one-third of the Timorese population. Today it is an international issue, occupying the attention of peoples and governments, including the peoples of ASEAN, thanks to efforts of brave men like you.

We hope this conference will be successful and fruitful for the future.

Finally, we send our most respectful greetings to you and to all the participants at the conference, and in particular to Mde. Mitterrand and Doña Maria Barroso.